

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



52nd M. L. A. CONFERENCE

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LIBRARY DIVISION
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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES

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DECEMBER, 1946

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Among Other Things

▼ Emily Mayne, retiring president, deserves a word of recognition and a vote of thanks for her conscientious devotion to duty while president; also for the obvious success of the 52nd Conference. Handicapped by many perplexing local library problems, not to overlook the many necessary trips to the Cities for Board meetings, she served the Association at not a little personal cost and sacrifice. Her fine spirit and willingness to give of herself so generously merits the gratitude of all.

▼ Some good papers were given at the state conference. Speakers were requested to submit copies for publication but not all of them did so. . . . Irving Lieberman's published address should stimulate serious thought. Speaking at several sessions of the Conference his clear, concise and direct exposition on library problems was well-received by librarians. He left a very favorable impression and made a real contribution to our thinking.

▼ John Towner Frederick was also a highlight. His after-dinner address was simple, human and convincing. His tribute to those in the library profession, coming as it did from an educator, was as warming as it was unusual.

▼ Watch for significant developments in Fergus Falls and Otter Tail County. Archer Eggen has done effective spade work for the establishment of a county library. Voluntary action by the commissioners may be expected soon. . . . He is about ready to launch a library-sponsored quiz kid program over the local radio station. . . . A new library building is another project he is working on. . . . Popular and well-liked in his community, a member of numerous organizations, Archer has made a brilliant record in the short year he has been librarian there.

▼ The Salary Policy Statement published elsewhere should be brought to the attention of every library board. For a long time the LIBRARY DIVISION has been working directly with library boards on the salary problem. The DIVISION's aim has been to obtain not only salary increases but also board adoption of a minimum and maximum schedule. . . . Librarians themselves must become more aggressive locally and strive to obtain deserved increases.

▼ It is heartening to see how well Nellie Yantes has taken over the Waseca County Library assignment. . . . She has been paving the way for the erection of a library building. It is a good bet that Waseca will lay the foundations for a new building in the near future. . . . She is concentrating on another project — a lecture course for Wasecans on the great books to be given by a University professor. Watch for further reports.

▼ The Austin Public Library Survey done under the skilled direction of Julia Wright Merrill is a fine piece of work. The Austin Library Board is to be commended for its vision in having the American Library Association make such a comprehensive survey of the local library set-up. This survey provides the people of Austin with an excellent picture of the existing situation. It also provides the board with a reliable blue print for developing a long-range library program for the future. How many more libraries will follow the Austin example?

▼ An encouraging start has been made in Olmsted County towards the establishment of a county library by voluntary action of the county commissioners. . . . It seems increasingly clear that where there is good citizen organization within a county, chances for commissioner-action are very good. Witness Stearns, Kanabec and Isanti Counties, all three systems established voluntarily by boards of county commissioners.

▼ Russell Shunk, author of *Pointers For Public Library Building Planners* and currently library building consultant, was guest speaker at the annual banquet of the Nebraska Library Association in Omaha on October 11. From the favorable reports reaching here his address was a Conference highlight. Congratulations from your Minnesota colleagues.

—L. F. Z.

Barriers To Library Service

What Can We Do to Bring Non-borrower Into the Public Library

IRVING LIEBERMAN

Head, Extension Division, Michigan State Library

Irving Lieberman is Head of the Extension Division of the Michigan State Library. From January 1944 until his separation from service as a Major, last spring, he was Library Officer of the European Theater. While in that position he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations. Born in Newark, N. J., he filled various posts in his "hometown library" before securing his library degree at Columbia in 1939. He then went to the Detroit Public Library serving as branch assistant and ranking senior assistant until 1942 when he became Director of State Aid to Public Libraries. Shortly thereafter he entered the service as an enlisted man. During the next two years he served in various capacities including training at an Officer Candidate School, the result of which brought him a commission in the U. S. Army.—*Editor.*

"How important is it to you to have books to read in leisure time?" This was a question asked in a survey made by the Research Branch of the War Department in the European Theater during the winter of 1944. 36% of the troops declared, "Very important"; 41% said, "Of medium importance"; and 19% answered, "It is of little importance."

"If there were no public libraries in this city, how much difference would it make to you personally?" This was a question asked in a recent study made by the National Opinion Research Center of the University of Denver in seventeen cooperating city libraries in the United States entitled, "What . . . Where . . . Why . . . Do People Read?" 21% of the people questioned said, "It would make a great deal of difference"; 16% said, "Quite a bit of difference"; and the large number, 61% to be exact, said, "It would not make much difference."

"People and Books"—a study of reading and book-buying habits was published a few months ago. This showed that the time spent in reading books, as compared with other activities, was as follows: reading of newspapers 21%, reading of magazines 11%, attending movies 11%, listening to the radio 49%, and reading a book 8%.

I realize that in the first instance men were in isolation because of conditions of weather, terrain, the foreign language of the native population, or the nature of their work. They were often cut off from other forms of recreation, such as noted in the last study, that are readily available in any American city to hold the attention of the average citizen.

I have a fundamental belief in the impor-

tance of the public library as a means of furthering the cultural, political and economic progress of a community. However, to do this, it must be an efficient and aggressive institution and, when need be, force the attention of the community to existing problems. The public library can be the very center of community life if all other activities are integrated with it and if, in addition, it participates in the activities outside of its four walls. Surely the public library must be as close to the community's heart as is the college or university library to the curriculum being taught. Certainly it can be the strongest single organization to unify, to stimulate and to sponsor community activity.

You notice from the title of this discussion that it concerns itself with bringing the non-borrower into the library. This is of particular necessity in today's consideration because of the returning veteran. Many of the men and women in the armed forces had never been exposed to reading before their entry into service. As you know, the army consisted of the largest variety of backgrounds and education possible in any one organization, so this is easily understandable. Coupled with that, is the fact that millions of magazines and Armed Services Editions (the paper-covered books) were easily available and within reaching distance of nearly everyone in service. The veteran has now returned to his community. He will continue in his reading habits if the libraries of the country give him the things he asks for and in such a manner that he can find them easily accessible.

Too often, most library services are not known or understood. Librarians are noted

for their ability to organize materials but they lack sadly the ability to interpret library service to their constituency. An understanding of what is good library service would mean, in return, a belief in sponsoring many new services and an appropriation of larger budgets to make the growth of a library a continuous thing. True, much must be done by the librarian and library trustees in the understanding of public relations techniques. Often librarians are satisfied with preparing a list of the new acquisitions for the local newspaper weekly. This is hardly sufficient because it is just dismissed by the average reader of the daily paper and the library continues to be a supplyhouse and not an agency that stimulates the reader. The precise methods of publicity will depend on local circumstances, but the keynote should be variety—in content, media and techniques. Publicizing the library's activities is a continuing process that never ceases, but the best publicity is by word of mouth, as the residents come to know and appreciate the effectiveness of the library service offered them. I realize that I am asking for a professional public relations program. This is a "must" if the library services are to be understood and used by the patron who, up to this time, has not entered the building.

Let us look first at the library's book collection. Is it the library's mission to give its patrons what they want? Library borrowers have indicated a desire for modern books, best-sellers, magazines and newspapers. They would like to see the obsolete books and materials discarded. It is my brief that the library must use its power of selectivity. Certainly this is one of its prime functions in the community, with the tons of print that pour off the presses each year. Only that which will give information, aesthetic pleasure, recreation, or be a means of self-education, should be considered. With the trend toward more pocket books and other paper-covered editions, there is an increase in the kind of books that may be bought by the citizen, instead of his expecting to find everything in the public library. For instance, an understanding and an appreciation of books and a desire to build up personal collections is the purpose of the new **Teen-Age Book Club** recently started by Pocket Books, Inc. Here are five very well-selected titles that can be added to any one's personal library. And yet, should not the

public library also enter the field of the inexpensive book? Very often titles that are desirable for library collections, but are out-of-print in cloth bound editions, are being issued in this paper-covered form. One librarian of a large public library has stated that it is his belief that a few thousand dollars of his book budget each year put into paper-covered editions that would be circulated with a minimum of the technical processes, would be a justifiable expenditure. The library would urge that these books be passed on to other readers in the community and thereby stimulate an interest in reading. Perhaps the library could even sell some of these materials, as the Chicago Public Library does with its large pamphlet program.

I should like to consider briefly the merits of fiction versus non-fiction. How many copies of best-sellers, that may be conversation pieces today but sit on the shelves tomorrow, should be purchased. It may interest you to know that 75% of the Armed Services Editions were fiction, including such types as serious fiction, humor, historical novels, westerns and mysteries, in that order of importance. In the remaining 25% of non-fiction, biographies and travel led all the rest. We must credit the editors of the Armed Services Editions with good taste, although there was material for every reading interest in each month's selection during the three years of its existence. Actually, there was a somewhat wider choice of titles for the man who enjoys good writing than there was for the man who cared only for light reading and action stories.

In connection with book stock, a rather interesting comment was made by Dr. William M. Randall at the Library Buildings Institute at the University of Chicago last August. He said he believed that the element of growth in terms of storage space for books was not to be considered quite as seriously as it had been in the past. Instead, with the changing functions of libraries, with specialization and with increased inter-library loans, the public libraries would not need to keep as large collections of books in the future. As a matter of fact, he said the function of reading, as well as the stimulation to use all library materials, would be emphasized. This means that the library of today and tomorrow will not concern itself as much with shelving as with areas where guidance and related activities might take

place. It may not be impossible that, in the future, the purely casual and recreational use of the library may be eliminated. The public library can do an informal adult education program better than other social institutions and is therefore an important agency for education. Let me urge your serious consideration of this point, and with it a critical examination of today's book selection policies.

Another aspect that should be considered in bringing the non-borrower into the public library is that of coverage, not only by static branches, but by mobile library service. Many of the larger cities in the United States today have devised excellent schemes of bookmobile service to cover those areas that have grown with increased war industries during the last five years. It is not enough to say that there is a good library in the center of town because this is meaningless if you are unaccustomed to using it. The question of accessibility of library service is a vital one.

Probably the people that we are reaching less often through the public library are those that reside in rural areas. Much has been done in the field of county library expansion. However, inadequate library service is more than a rural problem. The cities are being constantly repopulated by people from the country and it is in the interest of cities that the educational standards of people from the country be as high as possible. Today no one can have a smug attitude and declare his own library service as adequate when his next-door neighbor does not have access to it. It is for this reason that we are delighted that federal legislation to demonstrate library service is being considered; particularly in rural areas, where the leaders in office may see for themselves how much good that kind of service would do for their community. This demonstration of public library service would undoubtedly mean expansion in the future at local levels. Miss Mary U. Rothrock, President of A.L.A., indicated this when she said before the Senate hearing on the bill, that between 1935 and 1945, in the seven states of the TVA, the number of people receiving library service had increased from 6,500,000 to 12,500,000, that the use of books had increased from 19,000,000 to 31,000,000 and that these seven states in 1945 spent \$995,000 for extending library service, whereas

in 1935 they spent no money for this purpose.

Librarians and Friends of Libraries in all of the 48 states agree that no activity competes with the urgent need at this moment to talk with Congressmen, who are now at home, about the Hill-Douglas Public Library Service Demonstration Bill. Urge early action, as soon as Congress reconvenes. Tell your Congressman what the bill will do in your community for *his* constituents.

Not only is it necessary to establish more service points, but it is equally important to modernize the entire organization of the library, to simplify or eliminate all red tape so that books may go out freely. In the training program for soldier librarians in the European Theater, one of the things we stressed was the need for special collections. Because readers' interests often cut across the Dewey system of classification, small collections are desirable. It was also considered important to put together the different types of material, such as books, magazines, clippings, pictures, etc., since the form matters little to anyone looking for information in a particular subject field.

For this reason, I was interested in an article that appeared in the *Wilson Library Bulletin* for September of this year, titled "Books the G.I.'s Missed." The author, Mr. Richard Hart, described a special program that was organized at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore during April and May of this year. Because so many of the armed forces had come into the library and said, "How can I ever catch up on the good reading I missed while I was away?" the library decided to bring together books published during 1941 to 1945. Worthwhile books of broad appeal were collected rather than advanced or specialized titles. One of the merits of the display was its variety of subjects in a space no larger than a small bookshelf, so that the entire shelf might be examined in 15 or 20 minutes. The collection was placed so that it could not be missed by anyone entering the building. As a circulation builder, the G.I. display surpassed any other recent activity of this kind at the Pratt Library. What is more important, the books drawn from the stacks were a large number of duplicates of titles which had passed their first popularity and were idle on the shelves.

The organization of library materials will be a determining factor in the future. Is

the library just a supply house for materials or does it stimulate reading? A reader is motivated first, then he determines what to read. Why shouldn't the library stimulate the reader, rather than act merely as the supply agency for material that has been recommended in a school program, or by an advertisement, or by a friend?

This matter of organization even goes further and that is in terms of the physical library building itself. Perhaps here the implications of the Services program is most important. In a questionnaire that was completed by sailors in the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, there is a direct answer to the question of library atmosphere. The Navy personnel indicated quite clearly that they wanted to see an informal air in the library—lounging chairs, upholstered furniture, and tables and lamps. They didn't approve of straight-backed chairs and tables. They also wanted to have smoking privileges and to have smoking equipment available. In the libraries that were organized in Europe for the Army, there were many changes consisting of brightly-colored draperies, upholstered furniture and a casual atmosphere about the whole place. You could browse around or have discussion with a pal.

Ralph Beals, new Director of the New York Public Library, in his discussion of the program of service for the public library at the Library Buildings Institute this year, said that a sense of purpose must be the basis for any library building. Surely, he said, library buildings should not look like cathedrals, railroad stations, or schools, as they have in the past. Each of these types has a function purpose. The library has its own functional purpose, as well as these others and the result must be self-evident.

Up to this point, we have been talking of the library within its four walls. I should like to refer now to the services of the library in its work with organized groups and as a stimulating agency toward programs for social action in the community. Today, if the non-borrower is to be reached, the library must be taken to the people. Trends in this direction are very evident in bookmobile service in rural areas. This is true, particularly in the rural schools where children come out and select their own books. Many of the larger cities have definite programs of service to labor organizations. In some cases it is a permanent col-

lection of books left in charge of union members. In others, the librarian attends meetings of the locals and has a few minutes to discuss the books she has available that evening.

Many other types of services are being organized and are being accepted generally. You have probably heard about the Program Planners' Institute. Detroit, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and others have initiated action to bring organized groups together for a two-day session each spring. At that time, program subjects for the following fall are discussed and program chairmen, without exception, have indicated how grateful they are that this particular kind of library activity has been organized. It has given them assistance in planning programs to interest their individual organizations; suggestions of new methods of presentation; assistance in selecting subjects, reference materials and even speakers. You can see at once the part of the library in such an undertaking.

In many libraries, community council participation by the librarian is a usual thing. By organizing and working with other social agencies and lay groups in neighborhoods or at the municipality level, it has been possible to achieve a more complete understanding of racial and religious groups.

The library has assisted in sponsoring activities in the field of youth guidance. In this way, better living for all is the result, and the library has been able to initiate such action in many cases. In Battle Creek, for instance, after a series of discussions and special exhibits, community funds were made available for developing an expanded program for child guidance and family relations. By focusing attention on these needs, the library was able to organize the support of community groups for a Family Welfare Service.

I have examined with you some of the ideas that are now being discussed by librarians and have indicated the implications of the army library program for civilian library service. True, all of these things cannot take place at once, but if we are not ready to make changes in library service as we know it today, be assured that other agencies will be ready to step in and take over. Probably I can best state my opinion by quoting from *A National Plan for Public Library Service* which is now in draft form and will be published sometime next year. This quotation,

I believe, is an admirable statement of purpose and I offer it to you as such:

"The objectives of the public library are many and various. But in essence they are two — to promote enlightened citizenship and to enrich personal life. They have to do with the twin pillars of the American way, the democratic process of group life and the sanctity and dignity of the individual person.

"The public library serves these objectives by the diffusion of information and ideas. By selecting and organizing materials, it

makes an educational instrument out of a welter of records. By providing a staff able to interpret materials, it eliminates the gaps between the seeker and the sources of enlightenment. When animated by a sense of purpose, reading skill, and community identification, the public library constitutes an important and unique service agency for the citizen. Lacking these attributes, it is a passive badge of culture tolerated by an indifferent populace."

Quicken Our Pace

Librarians are told from time to time that our concern with adult education has led us far beyond the library's legitimate boundaries. We are admonished to "stick to our last," whatever that may mean! It is meant to imply, I presume, that we should restrict our activities to the preservation and distribution of printed materials. But where are our "legitimate boundaries"? They extend, do they not, to the limits of people's intellectual needs? If that is so, we shall have to use every means at our disposal to serve those needs. A world in revolution does not permit us to delay. We must quicken our pace and intensify our efforts to make our public libraries genuine institutions for the diffusion of sound knowledge to all the people.—Miriam D. Tompkins, "What About the Other Sixty-eight Per Cent?" in *New Jersey Library Bulletin*, Spring, 1946.

Recent Library Surveys and Their Implications For Minnesota

ERRETT W. McDIARMID

University Librarian, University of Minnesota

Library surveys have come to be an accepted part of librarianship in America. Libraries needing assistance in evaluating their progress, laying plans for the future and embarking upon enlarged programs have wisely devoted their primary efforts to an analysis of the facts. For until the facts are known, it is impossible to plan very wisely for future growth. The library survey has served this purpose well. It has enabled many libraries to discover facts not previously known. It has brought information together in ways that would not have been possible without a survey and it has enabled librarians to obtain expert advice in studying their problems and devising ways of meeting them.

But the real measure of a survey is in the extent to which it contributes to progress or improvements. Simply to collect facts with no particular end in view is glorified rag-picking, interesting perhaps to those participating but of no intrinsic value. When all facts are analyzed, studied in the light of all known conditions and fitted together into a constructive program for the future, they can be of great importance and assistance.

In the last ten years or so there have been many surveys of libraries and groups of libraries. Their methods have varied widely and their results have been very uneven. Some have consisted solely of a slight rearrangement of existing information — others have been detailed analyses of all important information. All of those, however, with which I am familiar have had some beneficial results. I think it may be well to discuss briefly some of these.

First, I have not seen a survey, worthy of the name, which did not reveal some facts not previously known. I recall one survey where the librarian had been connected with the library for a long time. According to him, the amount of money which could be allotted to the library was definitely fixed—there was no possibility of varying it without a change in the law. The survey traced the matter down, and found that it was entirely within

the right of the city council to appropriate as much money as it wished to the library. As a result a budget request was prepared and presented and the library's next appropriation carried a substantial increase over the previous one. This, of course, is a striking and unusual example of the discovery of factual information — not all surveys have had such beneficial results. But no survey, worthy of the name, will fail to reveal some facts that were not previously known.

A second beneficial result of most surveys is in the dissemination of information. Facts that you and I take for granted are not as well known to some others. I wonder, for instance, how many people know that nearly 40 per cent of the people in Minnesota have no other source of library materials than the Library Division of the State Department of Education. I recall in this connection the preliminary discussion of survey findings with a group of trustees. These people — directly responsible for library service — expressed amazement at learning that more than 80 per cent of the people living in one area had no library service available to them. Presumably they had never encountered this particular bit of information — along with others which the survey disclosed.

A third beneficial result of surveys is that they are powerful inducements for action. You and I could talk ourselves blue in the face trying to convince those responsible that certain steps ought to be taken to improve library conditions in Minnesota. And we could be entirely right in our proposals and still fail to get them across. For we all know that findings and conditions of a study or survey usually carry more weight than the opinions of an individual or group of individuals, even though the two may be identical. America puts great store by the opinions of experts or the results of studies. There is something mysterious and compelling about survey recommendations.

For some years the New York Library Association has been urging the establish-

ment of a system of regional library service for New York State, without appreciable results. Finally the State Education Department was directed to make a survey of library service in the state. As you may have guessed, the results of that survey did not throw overboard the idea of regional organization for library service. Instead it reaffirmed the idea — and apparently the study will result in more serious consideration of the idea than ever before.

Now I do not mean to imply that the survey was wasted effort. Indeed it would have been well worth the time and money involved if it had only strengthened and supported the proposals for regional organization. But further, it did what every good survey should do, discovered new information, related different facts to each other, and refined and modified the proposals previously made so that they now stand clear and compelling. New York now has a much better chance of meeting its library needs than ever before.

I believe that we need to have in Minnesota an extensive analysis of library needs and conditions. I believe that such an analysis would discover new facts, would help us to relate our various facts, one to the other, and would lend great strength to any proposals which we can demonstrate as needed to provide for complete library service in the state. This seems to me to be an important implication for Minnesota from recent library surveys — the need for a complete and careful analysis of present library conditions and needs as a prerequisite for preparing a sound program for library development in Minnesota.

For the remainder of my time I wish to discuss specific aspects of three recent library surveys trying to draw from them certain implications for libraries in Minnesota. While I realize that other states and other libraries have many peculiar problems, I believe we would all agree that libraries have many common problems, and lessons learned in one state may have some validity for other states.

You all know the story of the armed service editions, the cheap paper-bound books which were printed in large quantities and widely distributed to members of the armed services. Many libraries had multiple copies of these books, thus being able to supply them to many people at one time. Returning members of the armed forces have frequently commented on the value and importance of

this service. The service men appreciated being able to get a copy of important books even though almost everyone was seeking a copy at the same time.

In the past, veterans administration hospital libraries have been organized along standard public library lines — an attempt to have a well-rounded collection covering all fields of knowledge, without great duplication of very popular titles. As a result patients in the hospitals wanting to read certain books found it impossible to get them without waiting for one of the few copies to go the rounds. This, as all of you know, is frequently a matter of months due to the long waiting list. The result has been that people are either forced to take some substitute which is available, but which they did not particularly want, or to do without library materials.

Partly as a result of a recent survey, the veterans administration has now acquired substantial stocks of army and navy surplus books including many armed service editions. For some titles at least it will now be possible for all hospitals to have copies sufficient to meet all demands.

Our libraries, it seems to me, have wisely concentrated on representing in their collections all phases of knowledge — so that any seeker of information, whatever his topic, can obtain some help. I wonder, however, if at the same time we have not neglected to acquire, in multiple copies, important books of the day. Certainly no one would deny the fact that there are urgent problems upon which all citizens need to be informed. But are we as librarians taking cognizance of this and making it possible for all people to get quickly and *simultaneously* accurate and up-to-date information on these problems?

There has been much criticism directed toward the reserved book system in college and university libraries. The educational value of the use of reserved books has been belittled and perhaps rightly so. For the student who depends solely upon his textbooks and chapters assigned by the professor in library books is certainly not getting full value from his college education. But we should not forget the fact that the reserved book system is a device to make it possible for large numbers of students to have access to the same information at the same time and to be able to accomplish this economically.

It seems to me that the public library could become a much greater force in the community if it enabled many residents to be reading, at the same time, the same books on problems of war and peace, labor relations, economics, etc. Not only would there be the advantage of enabling many individuals to become better informed, there would be the additional advantage of stimulating discussions among individuals. How many interesting discussions have been nipped in the bud by a negative answer to the question, Have you read so-and-so's latest book?

The second survey which I wish to mention is one which is now just in the discussion stage. The Tennessee Valley Library Council, consisting of representatives from the seven states included in the Tennessee River Valley area is making plans for a survey of libraries in that area. Naturally the survey hopes to find answers to such questions as, How many people have access to library service? How good is library service in this area? and To what extent are libraries working together to provide better library service. This is all to the good, of course. But from the outset one objective has been kept in mind as an important part of the survey: How well are libraries aiding the people of this area to utilize the resources of the area, human and natural?

Usually when we attempt to assess the significance of the library, we do it in terms of general objectives and standards. We check libraries against standard lists of books, we compare finances and budgets with national standards and averages, and we measure use in terms that can be applied anywhere. And all such measures are of value since libraries everywhere have many common problems.

The Tennessee Valley plans, however, seem to me to emphasize a point often overlooked — that aside from providing for general objectives common to all libraries, library service must be adapted to the peculiar needs of the people it serves and it must provide materials that will enable users to understand those needs better.

I wonder if we have given adequate thought to this problem: what can libraries in Minnesota do to enable the people of the state to utilize to better advantage, the resources of the state? Of course we have books on agriculture, on mining, on industry, etc.,

in our libraries. But have they gotten there by the accident of general book selection or because of a recognized need? Even if one assumes that libraries have adequate materials, have we organized them and made them available to those who will use them? Have we really tried to get them into the hands of the people or have we tended to take the position: here they are for anyone who wants to use them?

All of you know that the Tennessee Valley Authority has made a significant contribution in the development of library service in the Valley states, a contribution which has involved considerable financial outlay. TVA has been able to do this first, because it has the responsibility of providing for the education, health, and welfare of its employees. But TVA's library program goes considerably beyond this limited objective. Charged as it is with developing the full utilization of the resources of the area, TVA has realized the important part that libraries can play in such a program. I wonder if greater state support for library service might not be forthcoming if libraries could demonstrate what they are doing and can do in furthering the complete utilization of the state's resources.

The third survey to which I wish to refer is the survey of public library service in New York State. As a part of that investigation, individuals and community groups of all kinds were asked to comment on their need for library service and to make some appraisal of the extent to which those needs were being met. I confess that most of us had little hope of obtaining very much material of value to the survey. Ask a busy individual, who knows relatively little about libraries, to sit down and write a letter about the library, and one is likely, if a response is received, to get a series of platitudes so general in nature as to be meaningless. And although some of these requests were turned over to librarians to answer, we were all surprised at the number of careful and thoughtful returns that were received.

It would not be possible for me to summarize these replies. Two facts, however, were very evident. First, those people with special interests and needs emphasized their desire to have the library supply material to meet their needs. And second, the great majority of replies emphasized the urgent responsibility of libraries to furnish material on the critical problems of the day. It is this

latter point which I wish to emphasize as an implication for Minnesota.

Among these comments by citizens on library needs and services there was almost unanimous agreement that libraries have a major responsibility for providing accurate, complete and up-to-date information on critical issues of the day. In that connection the survey selected from among the important books of 1944, six which seemed particularly significant. Information was then obtained on the number of copies available in libraries and the number of times each copy was used. Two interesting facts came out of this. The total number of copies of these books available to New York's more than 13,000,000 residents was almost infinitesimally small, 1,853 copies — less than 2,000 copies of six outstanding books of 1944 for 13,000,000 people! When the circulation of the recent books was compared with general circulation it was found that the recent books circulated to six times as many people as the library's general collection. Again, this is not news to most librarians. We all know that the best-sellers are in great demand until their vogue is past and libraries could keep in circulation almost unlimited numbers of copies of them.

I am sure that many of those people who urged the library to supply the best books of the day in great quantities were thinking in part of the sensational books — books of interest and notoriety which would soon be forgotten. And as long as the library tries to serve the needs and wishes of the public, it must provide such materials. But I should like to see it concentrate on the truly worth-

while books — books which we know will be of enduring value. These supplied in quantity can be of vital significance to the city, state and nation. And it was clear to anyone who read the comments of New Yorkers about their library service that they realized the urgent need for information and understanding and the great responsibility which the library has in supplying its materials. This fact stands out more clearly than any other to me as I look at librarianship today.

I believe that librarians should regard two recent books as their sacred scriptures — the Smythe report on the development of atomic energy for military purposes and Norman Cousins's book, *Modern Man Is Obsolete*. The former tells the dramatic story of atomic energy and its development, the latter poses very clearly the possible courses open to humanity today. Either we as people learn to live together or we must prepare for almost certain destruction.

Truly society today is faced with a race between education and destruction. I do not believe President Hutchins of the University of Chicago is just an alarmist when he says "the world may not last long enough for the restricted campus education of today to affect the course of events. If there is a choice to be made between youth and adult education, then the urgency of our time gives priority to the adult."

Libraries are one of the few agencies in the world today which can affect the course of events. Ours is an urgent responsibility to see that our people have access to reliable sources of information and enlightenment.



A Time For Action

LEE F. ZIMMERMAN
State Director of Libraries

At no period in history has humanity experienced social dislocations and upheavals on such a vast scale. People everywhere on earth are confused, dismayed and without sense of direction. All mankind is alarmed by the specter of another war looming up on the horizon. Shall we be helpless to prevent the ominous trend of events that can well lead next time to an atomic war of survival or extinction?

If we want to make this a better world for ourselves and our progeny we must somehow learn to elevate the hearts and minds of men. Educators and librarians have an enormous obligation to meet. The world needs leadership; it wants information and guidance on an unprecedented scale. Our schools, colleges and libraries must transform society through more and better education and through more and better reading.

We are agreed that today education is not ended with the days of formal schooling, either grammar school, high school or college. It goes on through the whole of life. If the individual is to continue his growth or to acquire broader comprehension of the world and its problems, he must do so through wide reading. This in turn brings into focus the library, specifically the public library, not to overlook the librarian who takes on added stature in the educational pattern of tomorrow. We librarians have a unique opportunity to serve in the years ahead, but we must first set our house in order to serve wisely and well.

LIBRARY DIVISION GOALS

At the 1937 Conference of this Association I addressed you on the subject of "Minnesota Library Conditions and Objectives" and, at the 1938 Conference, on "A Program for Minnesota." The first talk called attention to prevalent library conditions; the second pointed up a remedial program. Since that time successive planning committees of the Association have accepted the LIBRARY DIVISION's program and have reaffirmed it from year to year. Most of you are already familiar with this program, but at the risk of being repetitious this is a good time and place to

restate it briefly.

- The ultimate elimination of traveling library collections and the substitution of a strong general library to serve as an effective overlending agency to other libraries in the state.
- A legislative program to encourage development through state grants-in-aid, certification of librarians, revision of current library laws and stepped up standards for school and public libraries.
- The organization of regional library demonstrations to convince rural people of the superior advantages of library systems set up on regional lines and to pave the way for their popular acceptance.
- An educational information program through the media of press and radio to establish the social significance of the library in the public mind and to attract public attention to its deserving need.
- Organization of citizens into active, library-minded associations in the various counties of the state to:
 - Promote county or regional libraries where none exist.
 - Support the legislative program of the state association and state agency.
 - Interest citizens in making gifts and bequests to libraries.
- The organization of a strong library trustees association to participate actively in the library movement and to support legislative programs.
- Adequate personnel for the Library Division through which to attain these aims.
- The organization of a militant state library association under strong leadership to initiate a dynamic library action program.

These aims constitute the basic long-range program. Their realization will transform library conditions in this state. The one noted last is not the Division's responsibility. Nevertheless, it is of major consequence to the agency for, in the absence of a strong militant library association, the state agency is relatively ineffective.

PARTIAL REALIZATION OF GOALS

The LIBRARY DIVISION has held to its vision of direction over the years but has not made sustained progress except for the period 1938-42. For that period some notable gains resulted. By means of a federal WPA subsidy the DIVISION obtained a large number of clerical and professional library assistants. This subsidy gave powerful momentum to its program which was attacked in earnest on many fronts.

Fourteen county library demonstrations were organized in the state and, as a direct consequence, seven new county library systems were established that now serve 122,000 rural people who previously were without free direct access to books.

In the field of library publicity an extensive educational information program was developed and applied over a broad area. The Division prepared 4,211 news releases for papers located in counties where demonstrations were in progress; 5 general news releases for 500 papers in the state and 8 feature or magazine articles for Sunday editions of Twin City papers and farm journals. It also provided 348 placards illustrating the advantages of county libraries and 93,500 leaflets about the county library for wide distribution to lay people. In addition, 91 radio scripts were prepared for broadcasting in demonstration centers and 3 scripts for broadcasts over state networks.

A strong trustees organization was given foremost attention; the LIBRARY DIVISION launched a trustees program designed to enlist interest in current library problems, state aid, certification, progressive library legislation and more direct participation in library affairs. Mimeographed bulletins were sent regularly to trustees; also a printed news sheet, "The Minnesota Trustee."

On the legislative front the LIBRARY DIVISION urged the State Association to sponsor state aid and certification bills in the 1939 session of the Legislature. A large body of promotional information was prepared in support of the bills, but the legislation ultimately went down to defeat in the Senate.

Then came the war, the discontinuance of federal works projects and, with it, the abrupt termination of the Division's statewide library program, which reverted to its former status.

"WHO IS TO BLAME?"

It might be well to pause here to make a few observations. For many years the LIBRARY DIVISION has striven to provide statewide leadership and direction, but for the most part it has been ineffective in the motivation of a continuous library program. From 1938-42 the Division made encouraging progress. This progress derived from an expanded personnel. Denied an expanded personnel, the Division is helpless. It has

the will but not the strength to cope with the library challenges of today. It cannot undertake a program similar in scope to the 1938-42 period.

The staff deficiency within the Division goes back many years. Repeated attempts have been made to correct the situation, but they were futile because the Department of Education receives legislative appropriations too small to permit staff increases for any of its divisions. This statement of the case may serve to explain why the LIBRARY DIVISION cannot provide lasting impetus to its program of library improvement within the state.

But is a program of library improvement the sole responsibility of the LIBRARY DIVISION? Is the Division by itself responsible for the task of getting books to 1,000,000 people now without them; of elevating library standards; of obtaining state aid and certification by means of legislation; of providing adequate personnel on the staff of the LIBRARY DIVISION; of initiating an information program on the social implications of the library in the cultural life of the nation? Where does the Minnesota Library Association fit into the picture? What is *its* responsibility to the library movement? Is it meeting this responsibility? If not, why not?

A few years ago there appeared in the columns of the *Library Journal* an article under the heading of "Who Is to Blame?"¹ This article was authored by our distinguished friend and colleague, Carl Vitz, who served among us for some years. It is a brilliant and penetrating examination of the relationship between the state library association and the state agency. It should be read by every member of this Association.

In discussing the failure of the library profession to make books available to the millions without them he observes that "the high hopes at the beginning of the century have failed to be realized and for what reason? . . . I believe that one of the most important reasons for failure is a blameworthy want of interest on the part of librarians. I hasten to absolve from this charge the librarians engaged in extension work. It is the rest of us to whom I refer, both individually and organized into associations. Our lack of interest has carried over to our trustees and to the citizenship at large. We have placed the whole burden of carrying on library exten-

¹Vitz, Carl. "Who Is to Blame?" *Library Journal*. December 1, 1940.

sion activities upon a mere handful of librarians, because we thought it was their job alone. It is not surprising that they have neither been able to cope with the problem nor to overcome the general apathy of legislator and voter."

Continuing his discussion of the problem, Mr. Vitz asks what can be done by state library associations to remedy matters. He states in part: "Help the state agency, for as you help it so shall you yourselves profit. The most powerful aid is a strong state library association. In such an association mere size is important. The total number of members counts. Yet, our state library associations tend to be feeble things. Only a fraction of those who should be are members. Whole groups of librarians are almost completely missing from its rosters: groups such as school librarians, college and university librarians, staff members of large public libraries, those in special libraries, and library trustees."

And finally he notes one more factor which deserves quoting here: "Our associations are feeble, frequently because not enough thought and planning are directed towards making them effective agencies for promoting library ideas."

These remarks by Mr. Vitz are particularly relevant at this time. The state library agency in Minnesota is weak because the state library association has been "feeble." Working alone and independently the LIBRARY DIVISION can make only painfully slow progress in hit or miss fashion. The job of developing a genuine library movement for the state should be the *joint* undertaking of the LIBRARY DIVISION and the Minnesota Library Association. Each has an important responsibility. As Dr. Tucker has stated: "In certain parts of the total program (such as administration of the program of extension) leadership must come from the agency (which has the skill and the facts); and support must come from the association. In other parts of the program (such as achievement of legislative goals), the association must 'carry the ball'—but only after the agency (which has the skill and the facts) has weighed and approved 'the ball'."²

DEVELOPING A STRONG ASSOCIATION

Both Mr. Vitz and Dr. Tucker have packed into their respective articles many

useful ideas for revitalizing a state library association. Their views deserve to be explored further. Perhaps in this connection you will permit me to assume the role of a friendly critic and to look at the Association from the vantage point of a state agency that has a vested interest in a strong functioning state library organization. I would like to call attention briefly to certain needs within the M.L.A. which strike me as basic and to note by way of emphasis certain factors observed by Vitz and Tucker.

Reexamination of Structure

An extensive reexamination of the Association, its structure, and its practices is a preliminary first step in building a strong M.L.A. A complete revision of the constitution and by-laws may be long overdue. Possibly an activities committee should be appointed to make a comprehensive survey of the Association from top to bottom and to draw up a revised constitution to meet the challenging library needs of our time. Or it might be advantageous to have an extensive survey made by competent authorities from outside the state on both the M.L.A. and the basic library set-up within the state.

Out of such a reexamination there should come a strong, aggressive leadership that will see fit to initiate long range library programs in terms of five-or-ten year periods. These programs should envisage not only declarations of purpose or objectives but definite *action* towards their realization. In the past the Association has been long on declarations of purpose but short on performance. In the future we must reverse that trend.

Liaison Between Agency and Association

Effective liaison between the state association and the LIBRARY DIVISION is sorely needed to bring about coordinated planning and effort. In the past Executive Boards have seldom consulted the LIBRARY DIVISION for information or guidance on library problems. Joint conferences and a mutual exchange of ideas have been lacking. This situation merits correction. The M.L.A. might seriously consider inviting the State Director of Libraries to become an ex officio member of the Executive Board or to serve as a consultant. Such an individual by virtue of long experience in state work could provide useful infor-

²Tucker, William P. "The State Library Agency and the State Library Association." *Minnesota Libraries*, September, 1946.

mation and continuity of direction to the work of the Executive Board.

Dr. Tucker echoes this opinion in his statement that "the structural framework for cooperative effort between state agency and association has seldom been at the optimum. The Association might well formalize non-official relationship by naming the head of the state agency as a permanent consultant to the Executive Board and the Association's committees which deal with policy affecting state-wide library development. This would effect a needed tie, but would not officially embarrass the agency in connection with any Association-sponsored legislation which the agency could not officially support."³

Or as Mr. Vitz has phrased it: "Efficiency and cooperation are promoted by inviting the state librarian and members of his staff to sit in at executive and other committee meetings of the Association, to draw on their knowledge and experience, and, if possible, to promote their objectives. Association and state library, however, each should feel free to act on the basis of its own judgment and should assume full responsibility for its actions and expressed opinions."⁴

Committee on Committees

It is taken for granted that a chain is no stronger than its weakest link. The M.L.A. is no stronger than its officers and committees chosen to lead. In past years the tendency has been to name hard-working librarians to serve the Association. This in itself is commendable but too often they are busy people with little time to give to M.L.A. affairs but who, out of a full sense of obligation, accept appointment. The Association is the loser. Frequently individuals residing at some distance from the Twin Cities are named to office or committees but find it difficult to attend necessary meetings. Others are not always appointed on committees where they could make their best contribution. Librarians new in the state and perhaps anxious to serve the Association are overlooked. So too are younger librarians in subordinate posts.

This situation could be corrected. Nominating committees should be more carefully chosen and another committee, a committee on committees, should be set up. This com-

mittee made up of the foremost leaders from school, college, state, public and special libraries could canvass their special fields for the most promising people to recommend to the Executive Board for appointment.

Simultaneous with appointment the Executive Board ought to submit in writing to the chairman the committee's function, its purpose and its area of work together with such other instructions as may be necessary. In past years M.L.A. committees have been left to find their way around as best they could. And finally committee appointments should be made by Executive Boards several weeks after the end of the Conference instead of months later as is the usual practice.

The Planning Committee

Stimulated by the A.L.A., which directed its attention to library planning on a national scale during the period of the 30's, Minnesota, in common with other states, appointed a library planning committee to formulate a statement of objectives. This committee was originally appointed in 1934 and comprised representatives from both the Association and the LIBRARY DIVISION.

Under the chairmanship of Clara Baldwin the committee drew up a series of recommendations under the title of "Library Objectives for Minnesota." Since that time the Association has appointed a new planning committee each year to continue state-wide library planning for the next year. It meets several times a year, discusses the same general objectives considered previously by former committees of other years, and then draws up another high-sounding report that is quickly and conveniently forgotten by the Association. The following year's committee repeats the process.

These statements should not be construed as an indictment of the Planning Committee. Each year it has done the job it was created to do. The M.L.A. should not continue to appoint a committee that has long since completed its assignment. Surely, over the years the members of this Association have become fully conversant with Minnesota library conditions and planning objectives. What is needed is not a "Planning Committee" as such but an "Action Committee" or a "Ways and Means Committee" whose responsibility

³Tucker, William P. "The State Library Agency and the State Library Association." *Minnesota Libraries*, September, 1946. p. 69.

⁴Vitz, Carl. "Who Is to Blame?" *Library Journal*, December 1, 1940. p. 1001.

should be the planning of techniques or methods by which to achieve the goals outlined by the Planning Committee. This committee working jointly with the LIBRARY DIVISION might accomplish much.

School Librarians and Other Groups

If the M.L.A. aspires to a larger membership and increased revenues, it should prevail upon school, college and special librarians to affiliate in larger numbers. Only a relatively few from each of these groups are now on the membership rolls. Have we ever tried to learn why they do not find it worth their while to become part of us? We should seek the answer and then create the conditions that will predispose them to affiliation.

The limited membership of school librarians may be attributed partly to their inability to obtain leave to attend M.L.A. meetings and partly to their having a school section within the Minnesota Educational Association. The M.L.A. Conference is always held early in October, the M.E.A. Conference usually several weeks later. School officials are reluctant to allow time off for attendance at two meetings that come so close together.

Two solutions suggest themselves: first, M.L.A. meetings might be scheduled at the same time as M.E.A. meetings. If, for example, the M.E.A. is in Minneapolis, the M.L.A. would be in St. Paul or the other way around. The other alternative is to hold our M.L.A. meetings in the spring of the year when superintendents may consent to their libra-

rians' attendance. Either alternative should make it possible for school librarians to come to our meetings and to build a strong, cooperative section within the framework of the Association.

These comments which I have made on various weaknesses within the Association are not necessarily final. There are others which may be noted in subsequent sessions of this Conference.

In conclusion and by way of summary, let me emphasize here that the main purpose of this talk has been to persuade you, if possible, that there is a major library job to be done in this state — one that calls for action, not wishful thinking; that the realization of a state-wide library program is the responsibility not only of the LIBRARY DIVISION but also of the Minnesota Library Association; that a reexamination of the structure and practices of the M.L.A. must be a preliminary first step towards setting our house in order, and that this be followed up by a dynamic, aggressive action program leading to the achievements of our aims.

To that task let this Conference dedicate itself. Let us accept the library challenge of our times with courage and with the conviction that we can contribute something to the rehabilitation of a bewildered social order. We must look within ourselves for the key that will unlock the library future. We can no longer procrastinate; we must act. "The Time Is Now!" Truly this is A TIME FOR ACTION.



MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Fifty-second Conference

RUTH M. JEDERMANN

Secretary-Treasurer, Minnesota Library Association

The Fifty-Second Conference of the Minnesota Library Association was held at the Hotel Lowry in St. Paul, October 3 to 5. Because of war conditions, the 1945 Conference did not convene, an omission which brought the present membership together with an unusual degree of interest and anticipation for the 1946 Conference. Its theme: —THE TIME IS NOW—M.L.A. CLEARS FOR ACTION.

FIRST GENERAL SESSION

With gracious words of greeting, Miss Jean Gardiner Smith, past president 1944-45, called the first general session to order at 10 a.m. on Thursday, October 3. On behalf of the Mayor, Fred M. Truax, Commissioner of Education of St. Paul, extended a welcome to the Conference from the City, and told the delegates that in a recently conducted national survey, St. Paul had been adjudged the number one friendliest city in the United States. Mr. Truax was followed by Miss Perrie Jones, who, in her welcome to the association, invited the members to visit the various exhibits in the St. Paul Public Library, and in particular, the Edwin White Collection recently given by the Friends of the Library.

The general chairman of the convention, Rella E. Havens, was then introduced. Next, Edith Rechcygl, former American Library Association Council delegate from Minnesota, told of greeting five past presidents in the receiving line at the 1946 Buffalo Conference, and she in turn passed on their welcome to M.L.A. Emily L. Mayne, President, was then presented, speaking on "M.L.A. Clears for Action"—an opening theme key-noting this year's conference. Miss Mayne, in her president's speech, summarized what M.L.A. had accomplished in 1945, and what it hoped to accomplish in 1946.

Next, Lee F. Zimmerman, State Director of Libraries, gave a constructive and critical evaluation on the need of a strong state agency and library program, with particular emphasis upon the relation between the Library Division and the M.L.A. and other agencies. It is published elsewhere in this issue.

RECENT LIBRARY SURVEYS AND THEIR IMPLICATION FOR MINNESOTA was a scholarly analysis presented by Errett W. McDiarmid, University Librarian and Director of Library Instruction. Dr. McDiarmid especially pointed out the need of an extensive library survey for Minnesota, which he felt, in its discovery of new facts, would be a power for future action, and would carry more weight than the opinion of an individual, or even that of a group. His address is published elsewhere in this issue.

NEW MEMBER'S LUNCHEON

Following the first general session, the new members of the association met for luncheon with Margaret M. Meier, Membership Committee chairman, presiding. Leaders in the library world and association officers were introduced to the new members, who received hearty words of welcome from the association.

SECOND GENERAL SESSION

Emily L. Mayne, president, presiding—the second general session was called to order at 2:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon. First on the program was the report of the Treasurer, Ruth M. Jedermann. This covered the period between September 30, 1945, and October 3, 1946. It was duly read and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance forward September 30, 1945.....\$ 775.49

RECEIPTS

Membership dues	\$582.00
Interest on War Bond, Series G..	2.50
Interest on savings account.....	2.64
Exchange on checks50
Gifts to Children's Memorial	
Library	68.00
Expense allowance from Institute	
expenses	32.10
Library Development Fund,	
Minn. expenses	42.60
Total	<u>730.34</u>
Grand total.....	<u>\$1,505.83</u>

DISBURSEMENTS

A.L.A. contributing membership	\$ 25.00
President's allowance	50.00
Vice-president's allowance for	
A.L.A. meeting.....	25.00
Secretary's allowance	100.00
Board and committee travel ex-	
pense	78.10
District Institute expense allow-	
ance	150.00
Children's Memorial Library	
books	60.14
Postage	48.82
Telephone	9.70
Printing, stationery, typing	92.10
Minnesota Radio Council mem-	
bership	5.00
U. S. War Bond, purchase cost..	74.00
Minnesota Editorial Association..	12.00
Flowers for sickness, funeral.....	10.00
Membership Committee — Lists	
and stationery	20.39
Certification Committee — Post-	
age, typing.....	10.14
Federal Relations Committee.....	25.00
Library Development Fund—	
Gift	50.00
Library Development Fund—	
Printing	15.50
Directory—Stationery, typing....	13.85
6 Film pamphlets, for resale	6.00
Office supplies	2.70
Bank charges — Exchange and	
collection	10.69
Total	<u>\$ 909.13</u>
Balance on hand	<u>\$ 596.70</u>

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Balance forward Sept. 30, 1945	\$775.49
Total receipts.....	730.34
Grand total.....	<u>\$1,505.83</u>
Total disbursements.....	909.13
Balance on hand	<u>\$ 596.70</u>

Assets as follows:

Checking account balance,	
Sept. 30, 1946.....	\$230.37
Savings account balance.....	366.33
U. S. War Bonds, face value..	600.00

Total assets.....\$1,197.20

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth M. Jedermann,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Following the reading of the treasurer's report, the Nominating Committee, Lee Zimmermann, chairman, reported that in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Minnesota Library Association, the following officers had been nominated and elected by ballot.

President	Lucille Gottry
First Vice-president and President-	
Elect.....	Donald E. Strout
Second Vice-president.....	Alice M. Lewis
Directors, Voluntary Certification Board	
One Year Term	Rella E. Havens
Two Year Term	Alice L. Brunat

The report was voted on and the new officers were duly acknowledged.

Following this, Margaret M. Meiers, Membership Committee chairman, reported that there were

Individual paid memberships.....	485
Institutional paid memberships	65
Public, School, College, Private School	

1946 Total paid membership.....	550
1945 Total paid membership.....	469
Increase	81

Eleanor Herrmann, Special Representative on the Governor's Advisory Committee, next read her report, in which she stated that one meeting had been held with an attendance of about 150 delegates, representing some 100 public and private agencies. As M.L.A. representative, Miss Herrmann "called attention to the advisory service provided by libraries for recreational as well as professional use" and recommended that the association keep in touch with John Sarles, Minneapolis chairman of the Advisory Committee's Public Relations Sub-committee.

Next, Agatha L. Klein, Planning Committee chairman, stated that her report had been mimeographed and distributed to the members. It was voted on and accepted.

Following this, Alice Brunat, chairman of the Voluntary Certification Sub-committee,

read her report, which carefully detailed what had been done in previous years; the present objective of the committee; and what has been accomplished in the past year by the revival of the voluntary certification plan; namely: applications for certification have been sent to 364 M.L.A. members; 100 applications with the full information required have been returned. As a result, the committee issued 45 Life Certificates, 20 Five Year, and 6 Three Year Certificates. Among the Life Certificate holders are Errett McDairmid, Emily Mayne, Lucille Gottry, and William P. Tucker; with one certificate going as far as Honolulu, to Mrs. Susie Bolger, former librarian of Pipestone. Application blanks are to be sent to all new members of the association, and to non-members upon request. The report stated that the next meeting of the board, for the issuance of certificates, will be held in April 1947 — and that until then whole-hearted support is asked for the work of the committee. Miss Brunat's report was approved and formally accepted by the association.

Next, William P. Tucker presented the report of the Legislative Committee which is published elsewhere in this issue.

Following the above report, Donald E. Strout presented his proposals for a Constitutional Revision embodying a study of the questionnaires sent out earlier in the year to the membership. After some discussion from the floor and a careful explanation of each motion proposed, the association voted upon and duly accepted the following changes in the constitution.

In accordance with the wishes of the members of the Minnesota Library Association, as expressed in replies received, to the questionnaire sent out early in 1946, it was proposed:

- 1 that the membership of the Executive Board be increased from 5 to 7, the additional members being the representatives of the Minnesota Library Association on the A.L.A. Council; therefore:
Article IV, Section 2 of the M.L.A. Constitution is amended to read: "The Executive Board shall consist of the officers of the Association, the retiring president, and the representatives of M.L.A. on the A.L.A. Council" (underscoring indicates the amended portion of Article IV, Sec-

tion 2); therefore, Article V, Section 9 of the By-Laws is amended to read "Four members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board."

- 2 the nominating committee, in the light of the foregoing, is directed as a matter of policy, to select opposing candidates for office in the Association with especial regard for adequate representation of all parts of the state, by this means making certain that statewide representation on the Executive Board is assured.
- 3 the present schedule of dues is supplanted by a sliding scale of dues based, for individuals, on salary and for institutions on annual budget, therefore: that part of Article V, Section 14 of the M.L.A. By-Laws which deals specifically with the amount of annual dues (namely: Individual membership \$1.00; Institutional membership \$2.00) is amended to read:

Individual memberships:

Salary \$1200 and under	1.00
Salary \$1201-2400	2.00
Salary \$2401 and over	3.00

Institutional memberships:

Budget of 7,500 and under....	2.50
Budget of 7,501-15,000.....	5.00
Budget exceeding 15,000.....	10.00

(Other portions of Article V, Section 14 remain unchanged.)

- 4 the above schedule of dues becomes effective for the fiscal year 1947-48, and is payable, therefore on or after the annual M.L.A. meeting in the Fall of 1947.

After the above reports had been heard and passed on, M.L.A. IN ACTION was the subject of a thought provoking panel discussion on problems pertinent to the whole library picture for Minnesota as it exists today. Heading the panel was Irving Lieberman, Director of the Extension Division of the Michigan State Library, who conducted a dynamic discussion with the other members of the panel: Agatha L. Klein, Alice Brunat, Donald E. Strout, and William P. Tucker. Particularly illuminating was Mr. Lieberman's feeling about the successful Michigan system as it could be applied to Minnesota. The summary by Miss Mayne showed agreement upon the following points—the value of library certification; the Library Workshop; the Library Institute; the need of a survey as a moving

agency; state aid; group meetings of librarian and trustee, and finally—a strong state library agency working in cooperation with M.L.A.

FILM DEMONSTRATION

Following the general session and library schools' and trustees' dinners, open house was held by the James Jerome Hill Reference Library and the St. Paul Public Library, where films for the use of the library were shown and talked about by Margaret F. Fletcher.

THIRD GENERAL SESSION

On Friday, Emily Mayne again presided, calling the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. First on the program was the report by Lucille Gottry on her work as Coordinator on the Federal Relations Committee. Following are some of the interesting features of it, and the particular points under consideration.

Library Development Fund in Minnesota

Goal \$2,840.00

Raised (Aug. 28) 3,041.97

107% of goal

Contributors, 229

Federal Relations Committee for Minnesota
State Library Director..... Lee Zimmerman
State M.L.A. President..... Emily Mayne
Publicity Chairman..... Ione Nelson
Coordinator Lucille Gottry

1. Work of the Federal Relations Committee—Passing on to the membership of the association, news of the National Office. (See A.L.A. Bulletin for full report on this.)
2. Federal Aid Bill for library service was introduced.
3. National Office writes us that "Minnesota has done outstanding work in the field of securing cooperation from other organizations for support of Library Demonstration Bill, etc." (Especially credit due Miss Ione Nelson, State Library Division, for this.)
4. Library Demonstration Bill is planned for reintroduction in Congress in January. Chances of its passage are good.
5. Everyone is asked to start now to inform his community about the bill. Be sure to write to your Congressmen and Senators about it, so that the Bill can be passed in January.

Following Miss Gottry's report, Irving Lieberman, Head of Extension Division,

Michigan State Library, concluded the session with a most convincing and inspiring talk on "The Other 75%," which is published elsewhere in this issue.

FOURTH GENERAL SESSION

Festive, in the spirit of pre-war days, was the fourth general session on Friday, October 4—a banquet—which preceded the talk of the evening on *OF MEN AND BOOKS* by John Townsend Frederick, nationally known author, and radio commentator for the Chicago Sun. Through the courtesy of the Logan Bindery, the Minneapolis Lions Club Quartet gave a delightful musical program through the dinner hour, while after the banquet square dancing added an extra note of festivity. Emily Mayne presided.

FIFTH GENERAL SESSION

Sponsored by the Children's and Young People's Section, the fifth general session, opening at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, was presided over by the newly elected President of the Minnesota Library Association, Lucille Gottry. Following a talk on *A RECRUITING PROGRAM FOR MINNESOTA: WHERE SHALL WE BEGIN?* by C. Irene Hayner of the Library School Staff Library of the University, Alice L. Brunat, Librarian, East Lake Branch Library, Minneapolis, told about the Library Institute she attended in Cleveland, which was sponsored by the Ohio State Library and Western Reserve Library School. Next on the program, M. Janet Lockhart, Librarian of West High School, Minneapolis, in her talk on *BOOKS FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLES* laid particular stress upon the importance of careful book selection for a better inter-group understanding and tolerance.

Virginia Chase, Children's Librarian, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, then gave the members an inspiring talk on the work of the children's librarian in her *STARS TO STEER BY*. This will be published in a later issue of *MINNESOTA LIBRARIES*.

HALFWAY UP THE STAIRS brought a picture of the beginning and development of children's work in the Minneapolis Public Library, as depicted by Isabel McLaughlin, Director of Work with Children. This concluded the program sponsored by the Children's Section.

After a short recess, Emily Mayne con-

ducted a brief closing business meeting of the association. Grieg Aspness, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, introduced a number of resolutions which have been placed on file in the permanent minutes of the meeting. One of general importance, however, resolves "that the Minnesota Library Association express to the National Relations Office its indorsement of the Public Library Demonstration Bill, and that it pledge its cooperation and support to the passing of the bill at the next session of the United States Congress."

Ernest L. Johnson, Chairman of Exhibits, next informally reported that there were 19 exhibitors and that the exhibits would add \$270 to the treasury; about \$50 more than last year.

Finally Marion Phillips, Registration Chairman, reported 346 paid registrations and 34 guests, including library school students — the total, 380 — which is slightly larger than that of any convention since the one in Minneapolis, 1938—the largest of all.

To close the meeting—Miss Mayne after explanatory remarks, asked that the following recommendations be considered. They were presented, voted upon, and adopted.

1. Multi-state regional meeting to be held in 1947.
2. District meetings to be held each year.
3. Yearly Institutes to be held under the cooperation of the M.L.A. and the Library Division.
4. Activities Committee—to work on Revision of the Constitution.
5. Library analyst to be obtained by the Executive Board with a view to his conducting a Library Survey.
6. Strengthening of the State Agency, through closer cooperation with it on Certification, and Regional Meetings.

Then upon motion of Alice Lewis the association was asked to give a vote of gratitude to Marion Phillips and Lee Zimmerman for their fine work on the Library Directory. The vote was unanimously passed, after which the fifty-second conference of the Minnesota Library Association was adjourned.

SECTION MEETINGS

The Reference Section held a luncheon meeting on Friday noon in the Hotel Lowry Terrace Room, with an attendance of one hundred members and guests. David R.

Watkins, chairman, presided at the short business meeting which followed, where by unanimous vote a new Constitution was adopted. First on the formal program was a talk by C. Irene Hayner, who gave an account of what was said about the *Subscription Books Bulletin* at the A.L.A. Convention. Next Raymond Shove talked about the proposed small rag edition of the New York Times. Samples of it were shown. He was followed by Harold Russell who listed and evaluated the best reference books since 1941, a list which it is hoped will be published later. As the last election of officers was at an interim meeting, they carry through 1946-1947; and are — chairman, David R. Watkins, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul; Raymond Shove, vice-chairman, University of Minnesota Library; Mrs. Alice Bray, secretary-treasurer, St. Paul.

Meeting on Friday afternoon, with Anne Carroll presiding, the Catalog Section featured practical suggestions on cataloging problems. Esther Jerabeck reported on the A.L.A. catalog meeting at Buffalo, while C. Irene Hayner led a lively round table discussion. Elected to office were Marion Phillips, Minneapolis Public Library, chairman, and Margaret Lane, Winona Public Library, secretary.

Bernine Kuzma, chairman of the College Librarian's Section, on Friday afternoon, conducted a meeting dealing especially with *HOW THE LIBRARY MAY BE BROUGHT OUT IN THE COLLEGE BULLETIN*; the subject of a talk by Grant D. Hanson, Gustavus Adolphus College. He suggested that at least half a page of the college bulletin be devoted to the library, together with pertinent information about it. A brief discussion preceded the election of officers; Grant D. Hanson, the new chairman, and Bernice Kuzma, secretary.

The Small Public Library Section met jointly with the Trustees' Section on Friday afternoon. Mrs. C. A. Nickolof, Hibbing, Trustees' chairman, presiding, introduced the main speaker, Irving Lieberman, Head of the Extension Division, Michigan State Library. His theme—as on other programs —*THE TIME IS NOW*. Talking informally, Mr. Lieberman gave a graphic picture of the Trustees' Experimental Project in Michigan—an effort to vitalize the trustees' attitude in his job. He also strongly advocated the

Library Workshop for librarians in service. The technical aspects of a library, Mr. Lieberman said, should be de-emphasized, and the dynamics of it emphasized. After his speech, the Trustees' Section withdrew, and Mrs. Merle Lennartson, pro tem chairman, presided over a brief business meeting of the Small Public Library Section. Officers elected were chairman, Marie Knudson, South St. Paul Public Library; vice-chairman, Edna Steiner, Red Wing Public Library; secretary-treasurer, Myrtle Rundquist, Moorhead Public Library.

After the trustees had withdrawn from the joint meeting they held a brief business meeting for election of officers, all of whom were re-elected—the chairman, Mrs. C. A. Nickoloff, Hibbing; vice-chairman, W. F. Sperling, Rochester; and the secretary, Mrs. Emil Ahola, Virginia. Mrs. Ahola gave a brief sketch of the Trustees' Section since its organization, followed by a talk by Lee Zimmerman, noted elsewhere in this issue. Stressed was the need for the organization of Regional Trustees' groups, with much enthusiasm shown when Mr. Sperling of Rochester volunteered to organize such a regional group.

On Saturday morning, following the fifth general session, a brief business meeting was held by the Children's and Young People's Section. Elinor Walker, chairman, presided. Elected to office were — chairman, Olive

D. Lewis, Gillette State Hospital, St. Paul; secretary, Arlene Bruflat, Franklin Jr. High School, Minneapolis. Later at the Woman's City Club luncheon, a large group heard Mrs. Alma Scott, New Ulm Public Library, give personal reminiscences about the late Wanda Gag, Minnesota's gifted author and illustrator. Mrs. Scott (Georgia Travers) also told about her own book, "The Wily Woodchucks," which is the story of the Gag family, illustrated by Flavia Gag. Other speakers included Jean Gardiner Smith, University of Minnesota High School, who in her warmly worded greeting, stressed the need of careful recruiting for librarianship. Eleanor Walker, the chairman, asked for helpful criticisms and suggestions for the Children's Column, a new feature of the A.L.A. Booklist. Della McGregor, who had planned the general arrangements of the two meetings, was given a hearty vote of thanks.

The County Librarians' Section met at a noon luncheon on Saturday. This was the first meeting as a group of the newly formed County Section. Mrs. Palmer, Ramsey County, announced the purchase of a new bookmobile, and Ethel Berry, Hennepin County, told of pre-bookmobile days in her county. Informal discussion followed on county problems — mileage, truckage, book delivery, and payment of station attendants. Elizabeth Hage, Lyon county librarian on book transportation problems.

Alive to Public Opinion

Good feeling among the public and the readers directly influences increase of book use. A service indifferent to public needs, and lacking the constant ideal of greater book use, does not make for good feeling toward the library. The library should be, in a way, more alive to public opinion than almost any other institution or organization; sensitive as to its standing in the community and to the approbation or condemnation it receives. This sensitiveness will be in behalf of the public itself; and a public library must, for the good of the public, be continually thinking about public opinion.—Joseph L. Wheeler, in his *The library and the community*. p. 43 (A.L.A. 1924)

Salary Policy Statement

The Board on Personnel Administration of the American Library Association presented to the A.L.A. Council at the Buffalo Conference the following minimum recommendations in respect to library salaries which were adopted by the Council at its meeting on June 21, 1946. The board is of the opinion that in libraries with more than the minimum incomes, these minimum figures must be adjusted to obtain the types, caliber, and number of personnel needed to maintain the character of service deemed essential for the specific library community.

THE BOARD ON PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION BELIEVES

I. *That the following salary principles should apply to all types of libraries:*

▼ The minimum annual entrance or base salary for a beginning position in the professional service should not be less than \$2100.

▼ The minimum annual entrance or base salary for the subprofessional, clerical, custodial, and other services should not be less than the standard prevailing rate for similar work in the community.

▼ The library which has not increased the minimum annual entrance or base salary for each class of position by at least 33 per cent above its 1941 level and has not increased increments and maximum rates proportionately should do so to meet the increased cost of living. Increases above 33 per cent are essential when living costs in the community or metropolitan area are higher than those of the country as a whole. The increments which an individual has received within the framework of the present salary schedule are not a part of the 33 per cent increase. Such increments are provided for recognition of growth on the job and for increased worth to the institution and not for increased living costs.

▼ Any library whose prewar salary schedule was below the A.L.A. minimum salary schedule for a library of its class should now bring the minimum annual entrance or base salary, increments, and maximum rate for each class of position at least to the A.L.A. minimum salary range and should also add 33 per cent.

II. *That in addition the following principles should apply:*

To public libraries

▼ Sixty-five per cent to 75 per cent of the total budget of the public library should be allotted to salaries. This ratio is in contrast to the prewar ratio of 55 per cent. In the case of libraries whose total budgets have been consistently increased during the war period in relation to increased cost of living and operating expenses, the allotment of 55 per cent for salaries may provide for the minimum salary schedules advocated by the board.

▼ An annual income of at least \$2.00 per capita is necessary to provide the local public library with sufficient funds to render service of high quality. An income of \$1.50 per capita is needed to render reasonably good service whereas that of \$1.00 per capita permits limited service, satisfactory as far as it goes, but admittedly a preliminary stage from the standpoint of ultimate goals. Local public libraries giving additional service such as county-wide coverage and/or operating school libraries require extra appropriations above these minimum standards.

To libraries in institutions of higher education

▼ The minimum annual expenditures for salaries and books in libraries in institutions of higher education, figured in terms of the library service unit load, should be:

▼ University libraries

First 2000 units—salaries \$12 and books \$7 per unit

Second 2000 units—salaries \$6 and books \$5 per unit

Remaining units—salaries \$6 and books \$3 per unit

▼ Degree-conferring four-year institution libraries

First 2000 units—salaries \$10 and books \$6 per unit

Remaining units—salaries \$6 and books \$4 per unit

▼ Non-degree-conferring institution libraries

First 1000 units—salaries \$6 and books \$5 per unit

Second 1000 units—salaries \$5 and books \$2 per unit

Remaining units—salaries \$3 and books \$1 per unit

The library's service load is established by counting each underclass (undergraduate) student other than honors students as 1 unit, each upperclass (undergraduate) student other than honors students as 2 units, each honors student as 3 units, each graduate student as 4 units, and each faculty member as 5 units.

To school libraries

▼ School librarians and professional library assistants in school libraries should be on the same salary schedule effective for teachers with equal training and experience but the compensation paid should not be less than \$2100. The minimum annual expenditure for books should be \$1.50 per pupil.

NOTE—For detailed instructions on the requirements for various grades of professional and other services and for establishing the library's service unit load see Classification and Pay Plans for Municipal Public Libraries and Classification and Pay Plans for Libraries in Institutions of Higher Education.

Letter On Salaries From The A. L. A.

At the Buffalo Conference the A.L.A. Council adopted the Salary Policy Statement which appears on the opposite page.

The board believes that this Statement can help in raising salaries for the library profession if library administrators, library trustees and library staff members will cooperate in implementing it.

In setting up \$2100 as the minimum annual entrance or base salary for the beginning positions in the professional service the board took into consideration the duties and responsibilities of these positions and the education required to perform such functions satisfactorily. The board believes that this \$2100 figure is a basic salary and not merely a salary now required because living costs are abnormal. Wherever and whenever living costs are higher than normal, this basic salary should be further supplemented. The salary of \$2100 is but \$1.00 per hour figured on a 40-hour week and a 52-week year. This is a very modest amount when it is compared with wages in business, industry and other professions for work of equal weight and importance.

The board is interested not only in salaries for beginning positions in the professional service, but it is equally concerned that salaries paid for all positions in libraries be based on the duties and responsibilities involved. Therefore it urges each library administrator to appoint a committee comprising representatives of the trustees, the staff and the administration to study the salary situation in the local library, to prepare an equitable salary schedule and to work for its adoption. Such a salary schedule should not only include a minimum annual entrance or base salary but it should also provide increments recognizing efficiency and growth on the job. If the new salary schedule is considerably higher than the present one, the board urges that no interim schedule be adopted. The board believes it is better to adopt the desirable salary schedule even if it requires *one or two* years to put it into operation fully.

Librarians have been willing too long to accept an untenable situation in regard to salaries because they have been too modest. The fact that salaries are not commensurate with the duties required of librarians should be brought to the attention of government officials, administrative bodies, and the public until adequate provisions are made. Unless trustees, administrators and staffs are willing to work for more equitable salaries at this period when the world is wage conscious, they will without doubt find it difficult to obtain or maintain adequate salaries at a later date.

The board trusts that all library associations, clubs and organizations will discuss salary conditions during the coming year and work for the improvement of salaries in their localities.

As the board plans to report on the work which is being done on salary promotion from time to time in the *A.L.A. Bulletin*, copies of releases and other publicity used by local libraries, and library associations, clubs and other groups will be of great interest to it.

—HAZEL B. TIMMERMAN, *Executive Assistant A.L.A. Board on Personnel Administration.*

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Trustees Section Meeting

Coinciding with the Annual M.L.A. Conference the Trustees held their meeting at the Hotel Lowry on October 4th. Previous to this meeting there was a joint meeting with the Small Public Libraries Section to hear Irving Lieberman of the Michigan State Library, speaker for the occasion. The joint meeting was presided over by Mrs. C. A. Nickoloff.

Upon the conclusion of the joint meeting Trustees met separately in the Century Room. The session was called to order by Mrs. C. A. Nickoloff of Hibbing, at 3:30 P. M. Following the transaction of unfinished and routine business Mrs. Edward Lahay gave the report of the Nominating Committee as follows:

Mrs. C. A. Nickoloff, Hibbing, Chairman
Mr. W. F. Sperling, Rochester, Vice Chairman

Mrs. Emil Ahola, Virginia, Secretary

On motion by Mrs. Emerson Ward of Waseca, supported by Mrs. D. L. Grannis, South St. Paul, the slate of officers was unanimously elected.

Mrs. Ahola gave a brief resume of the Trustees Section since its organization and outlined some of the problems currently confronting the Section.

Mrs. Nickoloff discussed the challenges now confronting libraries and library boards and pointed up the imperative need for trustees interest, responsibility and participation in library activities leading to the improvement of library conditions.

Mrs. Nickoloff then presented Lee Zimmerman, State Library Director, who was asked to present his views. He spoke on the library needs of Minnesota and emphasized the importance of enlisting the interest, understanding and support of library trustees in a far-reaching program intended to correct library conditions throughout the state. He stressed the necessity for trustees to organize themselves effectively for action: to build a strong functioning trustees organization; to gather together in increasing numbers annually; and to outline a program of action that might be integrated possibly

with those of the LIBRARY DIVISION and the State Library Association.

Mr. Zimmerman finally stated the Trustees problem in the following manner:

- How can Library Trustees be organized into a strong functioning statewide section?
- How can Library Trustees be made to take an interest in their own local libraries and be prevailed upon to correct unfortunate conditions?
- How can Library Trustees be made to take an interest in statewide library problems?
- How can Library Trustees be effectively organized to support library programs of the Minnesota Library Association and the LIBRARY DIVISION, especially legislative programs?

Mr. Zimmerman impressed upon the group the need for grass roots support behind legislative programs sponsored by the State Library Association and indicated that trustee backing was indispensable to success. He informed the Section that trustees should be familiar with the following:

- Nearly 1,000,000 people in the state without free access to books or libraries.
- Low annual per capita tax levies and library expenditures.
- The need for county and regional libraries to bring books to all rural people.
- Certification of public librarians.
- The need for state grants-in-aid.
- The need for a greatly enlarged staff in the LIBRARY DIVISION.
- The need for a strong state library association.
- The Library Demonstration Bill and its implications for library development to the state and nation.

Following Mr. Zimmerman's talk the organization of regional trustees groups was discussed. It was pointed out that the Range Library Association had been effectively organized and constructively active for many years and that if other sections of the state were organized regionally much could be done ultimately to build a strong statewide trustees organization.

Mrs. Nickoloff, next year's chairman and formerly a librarian, urged the Trustees to give serious consideration to the suggestions proposed by those attending the meeting, to take their trustee responsibilities seriously, and to strive for better understanding and cooperation between librarians and trustees. The meeting was then adjourned.—Mrs. EMIL AHOLA, *Secretary*.

To Library Trustees!

... We know that you are important people. Otherwise you would not be selected to care for the library interests. We hope that you can still dream, that you still have visions of what your library can mean to the community, that when you reach the place where you dream no longer, you will step out in favor of one with the vision you have lost. We know that you are interested in books. Only book lovers should have a voice in guiding the reading interests of the town or neighborhood. But that is not enough. You are responsible for raising the funds with which the library carries on. You are the representative of the library in your community. It is your responsibility to tell the mayor and the council about the institution you are serving. Do you know how many hours it is open a week, how many books are being circulated, how many people come to read the magazines and make use of the reference facilities? Do you know how much it costs to circulate each book? Do you know

how much money you should have to carry on acceptable library service in your community? How your service compares with the "Standards" that have been set up by our national library organization called "A.L.A." for *American Library Association*. Do you know why experts in library science claim that it costs less to serve larger areas than the small places independently? . . .

Yes, you have been chosen as a member of your library board because you are an outstanding citizen. It is our plea that you perform outstanding service to the library whose interests you have at heart. This is a legislative year. We must have the interest and support of all progressive library trustees to further the interests of the state. WILL YOU begin now to acquaint yourself with all the work that is going on in your community and the possibilities for extension of library work. Only then will you be worthy of the trust given you as LIBRARY TRUSTEE.—*Iowa Library Quarterly*, July 1944.

Trustee Opinion on Questions of Library Policy

The Trustees' Division of the American Library Association conducted a survey of trustee opinion on pertinent library questions immediately preceding the Buffalo Conference in June, 1946. 422 answers to the questionnaire were received.

Trustees were in favor of libraries expanding their information services (331 yes to 58 no) feeling that such services would attract a large number of those who do not have the reading habit. They apparently did not agree with librarians and trustees who believe it is best to stick to printed materials, although one trustee queried, "How else is such service given?"

Again, trustees agreed (331 to 81) that public libraries of all sizes should make a special effort to serve the business and industrial needs of their communities as a method of keeping the library in touch with community needs. A trustee commented in his reply, "We have been developing the service (business and industrial) for over twenty years with very gratifying results in commendation from the public." Other trustees qualified their affirmative statements

in that they believed information services should be enlarged only if funds and staff permit without skimping on basic services.

To the question, "Should public libraries put greater emphasis on educational books and services and less on escape literature?" 301 trustees answered "yes" while 81 said "no." Those answering in the affirmative felt that more value would result in the long run from emphasis on serious books. Many, however, felt that libraries should be careful not to neglect the interests of the ordinary reader. One trustee found it impossible to answer the question without qualification. He said, "Surely it is impossible to buy every expensive book which will be used by one individual or a very few persons. Just as surely one should try to help study groups and serious readers. It seems to me that in a small library, a limited number of special things should be planned for purchase each year. After all, the reader of escape literature deserves consideration."

There was a wider variance of opinion, 269 to 118, on whether or not public libraries should lend music, language and other

phonograph records more or less as they now lend books.

Many felt that the service should be given only if it did not involve lessening basic services. "Yes, for adult education only," said one trustee. "Schools will take care of the children."

Others felt that although it was an excellent idea, the lending of records would depend in large measure upon the size and financial ability of the library.

About the same number of trustees answered in the affirmative regarding educational or documentary non-commercial films. Although most trustees felt that the distribution of films was a part of disseminating information, they felt that unless a library

was adequately financed to include this with basic services, the public should bear part of the expense. One trustee pointed out that wire recorders may eliminate breakage and scratching of records and so broaden the field.

About 330 trustees felt that it would be wise for library boards, out of public funds and as an investment, to pay expenses of at least one trustee (in addition to one or two members of the staff) to occasional library meetings. Again, trustees felt that this measure would depend on the financial situation of the library. Generally, the answers indicated that staff members are more necessary than board members at library meetings.

Discard Clean Books

It is hardly too much to say that in certain popular classes in which technical progress is swift, books should never wear out—they should not be allowed to wear out, but *replaced early*. Their physical condition is secondary, and a quite unimportant second, to their quality as books of accurate information, and it is often necessary to replace them before any physical imperfection appears. And yet one still finds the fetish of fair, clean condition the principal factor in deciding the merit of a book and its claim to a place on the shelves. Let us get rid of this idea altogether, which if carried consistently into practice would flood our shelves with worthless and cheap, but perfectly clean, remainders on the principle that clean books are preferable to reliable books. Get rid of dirty books by all means, but *discard the clean ones equally if they are likely to provide inaccurate, misleading or out-of-date information . . .*

—Wilfrid Hynes in his "Revision of Stock." *Library Association Record*, August, 1935.

LIBRARY LEGISLATION

Report of the M. L. A. Legislative Committee

The Legislative Committee of the Minnesota Library Association was appointed in December 1945, and has held several meetings at which the following parts of a projected legislative program have been studied and discussed: school library service, municipal public library service, county and regional library service, certification for librarians, and the role and status of the state library agency.

These topics are all part of the total legislative picture which the Committee feels should be thoroughly explored during the next two years. The Committee's thinking on these longer-range problems at this stage of its study is as follows:

SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE. Few if any problems requiring legislative action are currently apparent in these fields.

REGIONAL LIBRARY SERVICE. Legislation should be sought clarifying the powers and functions of regional libraries (libraries rendering service to parts or all of two or more counties).

CERTIFICATION OF LIBRARIANS. The M.L.A. Sub-Committee on Voluntary Certification is working in cooperation with the Legislative Committee to achieve the following goals: legal certification for professional library personnel on a permanent basis; and voluntary certification on a temporary basis—to function until the achievement of legal certification. In this connection, the Committee requests the M.L.A. Executive Board to appoint to the Legislative Committee a sub-committee on legal certification to plan and implement a program for achieving the goal of legal certification. This sub-committee should work in cooperation with the Voluntary Certification Board.

THE STATE LIBRARY AGENCY. Discussion to date seems to present the following alternatives for the extremely important objective of strengthening the state agency: (1) working with the Commissioner of Education, the State Board of Education, and the State Legislature to secure an adequate budget to provide for additional personnel and other needs; or (2) sponsoring legislation to

place the state agency under a separate state library board, if the first alternative should not prove feasible.

This longer-range program may involve a fairly thorough revision or recodification of the library laws.

The Committee feels that the Association's legislative program for the coming session of the legislature should consist of the following goal: revision of the present county library law to provide for a maximum library tax levy of two mills (in place of the present one mill limit). The possibility of securing federal aid legislation highlights the importance of securing such an adequate millage for rural library development.

The Committee wishes to recommend its continued work on the *longer-range program* outlined above and full association support for the *immediate legislative program*.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to Lee Zimmerman, State Director of Libraries, for his helpful cooperation in its study; and it wishes to request that the Executive Board invite the Director to continue to serve as consultant to the Legislative Committee.

The Chairman wishes to express his appreciation to the members of the Committee and associated M.L.A. officers and committee members for their whole-hearted cooperation in the study of our common problems.

Respectfully submitted,

- Alice Brunat, East Lake Branch, Library, Minneapolis
- Rella Havens, Public Library, St. Paul
- Irene Hayner, University Library School, Minneapolis
- Merle Lennartson, Public Library, St. Cloud
- Adelaide Rood, Sumner Branch Library, Minneapolis
- Edna Steiner, Public Library, Red Wing
- William P. Tucker, Macalester College, St. Paul, *Chairman*

SALMAGUNDI

County Board Appointed

At the September meeting of the Board of County Commissioners the following were appointed directors by the county commissioners to serve on the Isanti County Library Board, Cambridge:

Mrs. W. E. Ballenthin, Cambridge
Mrs. Joel Erickson, Braham
Rev. W. C. Hilpert, Route 1, Bethel
Mrs. Alton Steinbring, Route 2, Isanti
Mrs. J. T. Swanson, Route 1, North Branch

This board held its first organization meeting at the Court House in Cambridge, the evening of September 26. Lee Zimmerman of the LIBRARY DIVISION was present at the meeting to render guidance and assistance. Mrs. Ballenthin was elected president of the Board and Mrs. Swanson, secretary.

Useful Bibliography

Books About Negro Life for Children, compiled by Augusta Baker, is a bibliography of special value because of the criteria set up for evaluation of books on this theme. It is available through Bureau for Intercultural Education, 1697 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., at ten cents.

Olmsted Prepares For Action

At a meeting held in the auditorium club room of the Rochester Public Library on the evening of September 16, an Olmsted County Library Association was organized for the purpose of establishing a county library system.

The meeting was called by a few rural citizens interested in the county library and was attended by approximately 50 people from all areas of the county. A large number of rural school board officers were in attendance.

Lee Zimmerman of the LIBRARY DIVISION was guest speaker of the evening. He discussed the county library at some length — what it is, how it functions, and how it may be obtained. A question and answer period followed.

Those present voted to organize a permanent association and elected Mrs. Ira R. Lambert of Chatfield, chairman, and Mrs. John M. Lawler of Eyota, secretary. A publicity committee is also to be appointed.

Personnel

- Mrs. Nellie Yantes, formerly a member of the staff of the Extension Division, Indiana State Library and, during the war, an army librarian in both Alabama and British Guiana, became librarian of the Waseca County Library in August.
- Dr. Ray O. Hummel, Jr., associated with the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D. C., since 1936, has been appointed Chief Catalog Librarian and Assistant Professor of the University. He replaces Dr. Raynard C. Swank. Dr. Hummel received his Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska and took his library work at the University of Michigan. During the war he was Lieutenant Commander in the Navy's division of Communications Intelligence.
- James M. Kingsley, formerly on the staff of the New York Public Library and previously Assistant Director of the Biblioteca Benjamin Franklin, has been appointed Librarian of the University Medical and Biological Library. Mr. Kingsley is a graduate of the Columbia University Library School.
- Ruth M. Tews, formerly head of the Hospital Library Service, St. Paul Public Library, was appointed Hospital Librarian of the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, on September 1. Miss Tews will reorganize and build up the library service to patients in the Rochester hospitals.
- Other recent appointments to the Mayo Clinic library staff include Elsa K. Hammar, formerly assistant cataloger, U. S. Naval Academy, to head the Catalog department; Vera M. Barrnes, formerly WAC in charge of the technical library, Camp Dedrick, Maryland, assistant cataloger; Ruth B. Caustin of this year's library school class at the University, library assistant; and Ruth Maun, formerly on the staff of the Army Medical Library, Washington, assistant to the librarian.

Library On Wheels

LIBRARY ON WHEELS, a 13-minute sound film on rural library service, is now being distributed by the A.L.A. It tells the story of the regional library in the Fraser Valley, British Columbia, of how bookmobile operations over a 750-mile circuit bring modern library service to 50,000 people in small towns and on farms, and to 70 schools. This film is a welcome aid to those interested in promoting rural library service. It can be used in county and regional library campaigns, at Friends of the Library, club and other group meetings, school assemblies, etc. It is sold by the A.L.A. but may be obtained for free use from the LIBRARY DIVISION.

Austin Amendment Carries

At the November election the taxpayers of Austin voted overwhelmingly on an amendment to the city charter to increase the maximum levy permissible for library purposes from 1 mill to 2½ mills. The vote was 3,372 for; against 921. There is little doubt that favorable action on the amendment came as an aftermath to the A.L.A. library survey. Many copies of the Survey were circulated among the organizations in Austin, while the *Austin Daily Herald* gave wide publicity to the survey's recommendations. The LIBRARY DIVISION recommends this survey to the attention of the public libraries in the state and urges them to borrow a copy from the DIVISION.

Two More County Libraries!

As we go to press word has reached us that on election day the voters of both Nobles and Kandiyohi counties voted affirmatively for the establishment of county libraries. A one-mill tax levy in Kandiyohi county will bring in approximately \$10,500 and in Nobles county about \$12,000 annually.

The vote in Kandiyohi was 4,865 for and 2,051 against. In Nobles county it was 3,265 for and 2,284 against. In both counties the rural vote was sufficient by itself to carry the issue without dependence for support upon the county seat cities. In Nobles county the total vote outside Worthington was 3,631. 1,855 voted for and 1,776 against the library. In Worthington it was 1,410 for and 545 against. In Kandiyohi county the rural vote was 3,471 of which 2,336 were affirmative and 1,135 negative votes. In Willmar the vote was 1,982 for and 400 against.

The winning of these two counties brings the score to ten county libraries that have been obtained since 1941. It serves to high-

light again the fact that county libraries are relatively simple to obtain when the people themselves organize to get them.

It was only a year ago that the Director of the Division met in Worthington with a group of citizens who were urged to organize a countywide association. Under the leadership of a few people headed by Don Mitchell, Nobles County Farm Bureau, president; Blanda Wass, County Superintendent of Schools, Secretary; and Alice Lewis, public school librarian, Director of Publicity, the county association did an outstanding job particularly in the field of publicity and promotion where Miss Lewis performed magnificently.

In Kandiyohi the movement did not yet under way until last January when Mr. Zimmerman met with a group to urge organization on a countywide basis. With Mrs. Willard DeRuyter, president; Mrs. Lester Bangston, secretary, and Mrs. Joe Birkenmeyer as publicity director, these three leaders deserve special commendation for the splendid way in which they organized for affirmative action at the polls.

SOURCES of

pictures ☆
charts ☆
posters ☆

☆with brief evaluations

prepared for schools and libraries by
specialists in pictorial materials

Consideration has been given to the needs of school and public libraries of all sizes in the selection of the pictorial material reviewed in the October issue of *Subscription Books Bulletin*, a special issue devoted to THE LIBRARY'S PICTURE COLLECTION. Specific picture, chart, and poster series have been evaluated by such criteria as photographic clarity, truthful color, appropriate size, the continuity of pictures or charts in sets, authenticity, and the kind and amount of printed information which helps to interpret the pictures. 30 double-column pages, containing 26 reviews and 53 worth-while sources of pictorial materials.

SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS BULLETIN

October, 1946

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